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607 Fourteenth Street N.W.  
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PHONE: 202.628.6600  
FAX: 202.434.1690  
www.perkinscoie.com

Marc Erik Elies  
PHONE  
FAX (202) 634-9126  
EMAIL

August 21, 2009

Jeff S. Jordan  
Federal Election Commission  
General Counsel's Office  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 6196

Dear Mr. Jordan:

On behalf of Christopher G. Kennedy, we write to supplement our response, submitted on August 5, 2009, to the Complaint in the above-referenced matter. The Complaint alleged that Mr. Kennedy should have filed Statements of Candidacy and Registration based on an inaccurate report in a column in the *Chicago Sun Times*.

On August 18, 2009, Mr. Kennedy announced that he would not run for the United States Senate. This announcement has been reported by several news sources, including the same column on which the Complaint was based. *See, e.g., Michael Sneed, Chris Kennedy won't run for U.S. Senate — or governor, Chicago Sun Times, Aug. 18, 2009*<sup>1</sup>; B.J. Lutz and Mary Ann Ahern, *Chris Kennedy Decides Against Senate Run, NBCChicago.com, Aug. 18, 2009*.<sup>2</sup> This development further demonstrates that, at the time of the original *Sun Times* report, Mr. Kennedy had not decided to run for federal office, and that the activities described in the report, to the extent that they were reported accurately, were conducted solely to help Mr. Kennedy evaluate whether or not to he should run for the Senate. The Commission should find no reason to believe that Mr. Kennedy violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and should dismiss this matter immediately.

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.suntimes.com/news/sneed/1722074,chriskennedy-senate-governor-081809.article#>.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/politics/Chris-Kennedy-Abandons-Senate-Run-53580477.html>.

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August 21, 2009  
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Very truly yours,



**Marc Erik Elias**  
**Christopher B. Wilson**  
**Counsel to Christopher Kennedy**

Enclosure

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## Chris Kennedy won't run for U.S. Senate -- or governor

### Comments

August 18, 2009

BY **MICHAEL SNEED** Sun-Times Columnist

Sneed has learned the Merchandise Mart's Chris Kennedy has decided not to run for the U.S. Senate — or any political office this year. Approximately one month ago, Kennedy, who had been eyeing a bid for months, entertained running for Illinois governor.

Top Dems, anxiously awaiting Kennedy's decision, felt Kennedy was their only chance to win against U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R). Many in the Dem hierarchy do not feel state Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, 32, has the seasoned experience to win the office.

Kennedy called friends and family early Tuesday morning to tell them of his decision. Kennedy, who lives in Kenilworth, had gotten his family pretty excited over his expected senate bid.

Kennedy spent the last few weeks at the Kennedy family compound Hyannis port, Mass., where he made his decision along with wife, Sheila.

"He honestly didn't have the stomach and the heart to run," said a source.

**MedMart Watch Alert: Chris Kennedy to amp up  
political campaigning?**  
From Wites Like She Talks

**MedMart Watch Alert: Chris Kennedy to amp up  
political campaigning?**  
From Wites Like She Talks

The views expressed in these blog posts are  
those of the author and not of the Chicago

Sun-Times.

funnyfarm wrote:

Of course he won't run he didn't have a chance and you didn't break any story on this no one knew anything about him your back in the 70's still thinking the Kennedy name means something!! This is 2009....

8/19/2009 6:18 AM CDT on suntimes.com

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## Chris Kennedy Decides Against Senate Run

By BJ LUTZ and MARY ANN AHERN

Updated 1:43 PM CDT, Tue, Aug 18, 2009



Merchandise Mart magnate Chris Kennedy has decided not to run for the United States Senate seat now occupied by Roland Burris.

An aide confirmed Kennedy would also not be running for Governor, says the *Trib*.

In an e-mail sent today, Kennedy, the son of the late Robert F. Kennedy, said he "decided not to run" for the Senate. "

"In the end, I did not want to have to leave the state in order to serve it," he wrote. "They say love conquers all, and in my case, it conquered ambition. I realize that I would rather be a good husband and a good father than a good Washington politician."

Kennedy has flirted with and abandoned the idea of launching a political campaign in the past, considering runs for Congress, Senate and Governor.

The decision comes three days after his aunt Eunice Shriver's funeral.

Kennedy acknowledged that his consideration was due in part to the work of his uncle, Sen. Edward Kennedy, who is suffering from brain cancer.

"I have been increasingly aware of the enormous contributions that my Uncle Teddy has made because of his service in the United States Senate," Kennedy wrote. "I think the more we learn of his story, the

more we want to carry on his legacy."

The move leaves Illinois Treasurer Alexi Giannouias and Chicago Urban League President Cheryle Jackson as the only confirmed Democratic candidates for the seat.

Burris announced in July that he would not run for a full term.

On the Republican side, there's North Shore Congressman Mark Kirk, retired Judge Don Lowery; entrepreneur Eric Wallace; and former Harvey Alderman John Arrington.

Kennedy is the eighth child of Robert F. Kennedy and is president of the Merchandise Mart.

The full text of Kennedy's note:

I wanted to thank you for the encouragement you gave me over the last few months as I've wrestled with the idea of running for Senate.

Your thoughtfulness and support in all of this will long be remembered by both Sheila and me.

I've decided not to run. The decision wasn't easy to arrive at, and it certainly took me long enough, but I wanted to consult with my family and each and every one of our family members had something to say on this matter. Just speaking to them can take months.

I may be a transplant to Chicago, but I have lived here for half my life, and they say there is no belief as strong as that of a convert's, and I am a believer in Illinois. In the end, I did not want to have to leave the state in order to serve it. They say love conquers all, and in my case, it conquered ambition. I realize that I would rather be a good husband and a good father than a good Washington politician.

When I first came to Chicago, my Uncle Sarge Shriver told me running The Mart was one of the best jobs in the whole world. He was right, and I love it at MMPI. It's great to be part of what is considered the world's best team.

The decision has not come easily. Over the last few months, I have been increasingly aware of the enormous contributions that my Uncle Teddy has made because of his service in the United States Senate. I think the more we learn of his story, the more we want to carry on his legacy.

Over the same period, though, I have also given great consideration to other examples in my family, including that of my Aunt Eunice, who was able to accomplish enormous goals, affecting millions of people without going into politics.

In either case, the examples of service to others is compelling, and I hope to continue to find ways to use the gifts I have been given to serve the country that has been so good to me.

Thanks again for your encouragement.

Chris

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First Published: Aug 18, 2009 12:56 PM CDT

**Find this article at:**

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/political/Chris-Kennedy-Abandons-Senate-Run-53580477.html>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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